

# Women's March



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where and when did the first historic Women's March take place?
2. What was the main purpose of the demonstration?
3. Why do you think so many people participated in this event again one year later?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. demonstration  | a) a large protest or rally   |
| ___ 2. inauguration   | b) an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer         |
| ___ 3. solidarity     | c) the quality of including people from all races, religions, genders, etc.   |
| ___ 4. LGBTQ          | d) a group's main objective or plan   |
| ___ 5. pro-life       | e) a person who fights for change by taking action, such as joining a protest |
| ___ 6. feminist       | f) forward movement, force  |
| ___ 7. inclusiveness  | g) the official swearing in of a new leader                                   |
| ___ 8. activist       | h) support for people with a common interest                                  |
| ___ 9. pay tribute    | i) to honor and show respect for one that came before                         |
| ___ 10. platform      | j) a theme or shared quality  |
| ___ 11. common thread | k) the belief that life begins at fertilization, being opposed to abortion    |
| ___ 12. momentum      | l) a supporter of the belief that men and women deserve equal rights          |

## Reading

1. On January 21, 2017, millions of people took part in a **demonstration** called the Women's March on Washington. The event took place the day after the **inauguration** of President Donald Trump. Approximately half a million people gathered in the nation's capital to stand up for human rights. At the same time, sister marches took place in every state and in at least 60 cities around the world.
2. It wasn't just women who wore pink hats and marched for human rights on January 21. Men and children of all ages joined in **solidarity**, too. The theme of the Women's March was **inclusiveness**. Many minority groups, including people with disabilities and the **LGBTQ** community, turned out in record numbers. One group that did not feel welcome was **pro-life feminists**. Some pro-lifers attended anyway.
3. The idea for the march began on Facebook just a few months earlier. A retired Hawaiian attorney named Theresa Shook saw the election results and feared that the rights of American women would soon be rolled back. That night, Shook set up a Facebook event for a women's march. By the time she woke up, 10,000 people had signed up. A group of female **activists** in New York agreed to take charge. They called the event the Women's March on Washington to **pay tribute** to the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963.
4. When asked what they wanted on January 21, one participant responded, "What don't we want?" They marched for gender and racial equality and freedom of religion. They marched for immigration rights and affordable healthcare. They even marched for the right to clean air and water. While the official **platform** for the march didn't mention Trump by name, there was one **common thread** among participants. Everyone feared that America's new administration posed a major threat to these human rights.
5. During the historic rally, celebrities and organizers worked hard to energize the crowds. Above all, they urged participants to keep the **momentum** going. Women, men, and children chanted a peaceful message as they held their signs high: "Love, not hate, will make America great!"
6. On the one-year anniversary of the Women's March on Washington, another historic rally took place. Hundreds of thousands of women took to the streets again. In the US, the official 2018 theme was "Power to the Polls." Organizers encouraged women across the nation to register to vote. Around the world, activists participated for various reasons. Collectively, they marched to say "We're still here."

*"This is an outpouring of energy and true democracy like I have never seen in my very long life. It is wide in age. It is deep in diversity. And remember, the constitution does not begin with 'I, the president.' It begins with 'We, the people.'"*

—Gloria Steinem, American feminist and political activist

# Comprehension

## A. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1–8).  
One item is not mentioned in the reading, but it is correct.  
Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The official title “Women’s March on Washington” was chosen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donald Trump won the US presidential election.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A woman from Hawaii started a Facebook page about a women’s demonstration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Millions of people around the world took to the streets in support of social justice and human rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ At least 10,000 people agreed to participate in a march the day after Trump’s inauguration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feminist activists in New York got serious about organizing the Women’s March.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A year later, hundreds of thousands of women took to the streets for a second Women’s March.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The media released video footage of Donald Trump saying very offensive remarks about women.

## B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.  
Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What was the significance of the date for the first Women’s March?
2. Why does the article mention Facebook?
3. Why does the article mention pro-life feminists?
4. What did the name of the original march pay tribute to?
5. Describe the turnout of the first march.
6. What happened a year after Donald Trump became president of the US?

## Hear Our Voices

Participants in the Women's March wanted their voices to be heard. In both historic rallies, they chanted and held creative signs as they marched.

### A. Discuss

Discuss the meaning of the signs in the chart below.

### B. Respond

Write one word to respond to each message in the chart (*true, funny, clever, etc.*).

### C. Rate

Rate the signs in the chart below from best to worst (1-8).

#	Sign	My Response	Rating
1	<b>I am a girl. What's your superpower?</b>		
2	<b>Men of quality do not fear equality.</b>		
3	<b>Tweet others how you want 2B tweeted.</b>		
4	<b>We shall overcomb.</b>		
5	<b>A woman's place is in the resistance.</b>		
6	<b>We are allies, not bystanders.</b>		
7	<b>Boys will be...held accountable.</b>		
8	<b>We're still here.</b>		

## Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. The demonstration focused on women's issues and human rights.
  - a) speech
  - b) march
  - c) vote
2. The activists wore pink hats and held clever signs.
  - a) protesters
  - b) organization
  - c) tributes
3. It was an inclusive event.
  - a) civil rights
  - b) equal pay for women
  - c) open to everyone
4. Without a leader, a cause can lose momentum.
  - a) respect
  - b) force
  - c) rights
5. Some signs paid tribute to Hillary Clinton's fight for gender equality.
  - a) made fun of
  - b) showed respect for
  - c) described
6. When asked what they want, equality was a common thread.
  - a) wishful thinking
  - b) general request
  - c) recurring theme

## Discussion

1. Why do you think so many people around the world marched in solidarity with Americans on January 21?
2. Why do you think this event was so important to minorities such as the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities?
3. Many pro-lifers describe themselves as feminists, and they had a variety of reasons for marching. Should organizers have made an effort to make pro-life feminists feel welcome at the event?
4. Did the activists prove that *love trumps hate*? Explain your opinion.
5. The event took place on the first full day of Trump's presidency. Many other protests took place during his first week. Do you think President Trump deserved more time to prove his worth to the American people?
6. Participants attended the Women's March for many different reasons. Did this event lack focus? Can it become a movement without a single goal?
7. Donald Trump responded to the first event by asking why these people did not vote. Do you think Trump helped inspire the theme for the second march? Do you think more women will vote in the next US election?

## Tweet Tweet

Donald Trump responded to the second march with the following tweet:

*"Beautiful weather all over our great country, a perfect day for all Women to March. Get out there now to celebrate the historic milestones and unprecedented economic success and wealth creation that has taken place over the last 12 months. Lowest female unemployment in 18 years!"*

1. How do you think participants reacted to this tweet?
2. What is/was your reaction?